



Community Groups are used extensively as the primary vehicle for discipleship at The Gathering and run on a quarter system. There is one in the fall, one in the winter and one in the spring. During the summer weeks we don't meet in Community Groups but we still offer the Growth Guides as a tool to help you grow personally. The Growth Guides are designed to help you dig deeper into the weekly sermon on your own or with your family and are available each week along with the note sheets at church as well as online.

**USE THIS GUIDE TO PREPARE FOR THE DISCUSSIONS IN COMMUNITY GROUP.**

### Consider...

Use the summary and discussion below to review and apply this week's message:

#### **The Big Idea**

*In prayer, a good Father prepares His children to receive good things.*

#### **Message Summary**

*Prayer is seen in a lot of different ways by a lot of different people, but in Matthew 7:7-11, Jesus breaks prayer down to its simplest form: a conversation between the Father and His children. That relationship is the foundation and the context that can help us understand why we pray and how we pray, and when prayer is based in relationship, a lifeless task can turn into a life-giving talk.*

#### **Discuss**

Use the following questions to review and apply the points learned in the message.

- What does Jesus' command in verses 7-8 tell you about God's availability to His children? Why is this so amazing?
- How would you answer a person who says that they prayed and asked God for something just like Jesus instructs, but their prayer was never answered?
- What would you say to a person who sees these statements on prayer as a guarantee that God is obligated to give us whatever we ask for if we have enough faith?
- Do you struggle to believe that God always responds to His children? If so, why?
- How does Jesus' teaching on prayer help you grow in your prayer life?
- Take time to read the following verses and to discuss the truths in these verses as well as any experience with these truths in your life: 1 John 5:14-15; James 4:3; Matthew 5:23-24
- A real tension in prayer is whether or not we really believe that God is good. Have you ever struggled with whether or not God is a giver of good in life? If so, when, and why?
- How have you discovered in your life and through the lives of others that God is the giver of good in life? Share your testimony of God's good gifts in your life.